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9. (Four Times Amended) A method for controlling communications network resource usage in a communications network, comprising:

enabling supplementary communications service requests;

intercepting said supplementary communications service requests at an intervening server before execution by a destination server;

receiving and decoding supplementary service information for said supplementary communications service being requested;

performing a link optimization based on a type of supplementary service being requested and selecting which of said one or more servers will execute said communications services; and

redirecting said supplementary service communications request to said selected server.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Dulman, U.S. Patent No. 5,915,008 ("Dulman") in view of Moharram, U.S. Patent No. 5,825,860 ("Moharram") and further in view of Taylor et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,400,587 ("Taylor"). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Dulman, Moharram, or Taylor, either singly or in combination.

As described in the Specification, one aspect of the present invention relates to a system and method for intercepting supplementary service redirection requests to a communications network and controlling resource for optimizing resource usage when setting up a call over the network. The network services control system is adapted to retrieve server identification data and to write statistical data in order to optimize network resources. A device/trunk handler is used to

interface one or more incoming and outgoing signaling channels to the optimization system. A monitoring and statistics unit monitors the signaling channels when a call is made or is in progress. The server software controls the routing of the supplementary service in the network through one or more selected servers. Therefore, in a particular embodiment of the invention, when a predetermined service command is placed to the communications system, the network services control system can selectively intercept the command and reroute the call through the appropriate available servers, thereby ensuring termination to the correct user, reusing hard to get communications facilities and establishing the most optimal route to the call's final destination.

Advantageously, the system can choose the most optimal servers through which to route calls, based on the type of supplementary service requested. Thus, for example, an intervening server can perform an optimization including determining whether other servers in the link support a particular service. As such, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the intervening server is adapted to "perform a link optimization based on a type of supplementary service being requested"; claim 5 has been amended to recite that the control program responsive to said monitor decoding supplementary service information is adapted to "perform a link optimization based on a type of supplementary service being requested"; and claim 9 has been amended to recite "performing a link optimization based on a type of supplementary service being requested".

In contrast, Dulman appears merely to relate to a standard telecommunications system that offers redirection features. Thus, Dulman provides for generating "transaction data" for services such as call forwarding and the like. Thus, in Dulman, there appears the possibility that the redirection request could fail because of its being routed to a user that cannot implement it. Thus, Dulman appears representative of the problem solved by the present invention.

Moreover, as acknowledged in the Official Action, Dulman does not relate, inter alia, to "a server other than the original server." In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Dulman nor Moharram nor Taylor relate to, inter

alia, intercepting supplementary service requests by an intervening server. Instead, Moharram provides a mediation point (MP) that receives requests from service control points (SCP) when those SCPs determine that they need "overload control." The MP does not, however, "intercept" a supplementary service request and, indeed, Moharram appears to have nothing whatsoever to do with supplementary service requests, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Taylor merely relates to rerouting a call from one trunk to another trunk or ACD which then treat the call normally. Taylor does not, however, relate to supplementary communications services or intercepting such requests before execution. Indeed, Taylor contains no hint that such interception and carrying out of supplementary services by an other-than-original server is even desirable. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Taylor in view of Brivet et al., U.S Patent No. 6,011,842 ("Brivet") and further in view of Dulman and Moharram. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Taylor or Brivet, Dulman or Moharram, either singly or in combination. As discussed in response to previous Official Actions, Taylor merely relates to rerouting a call from one trunk to another trunk or ACD which then treat the call normally. Brivet is relied on for teaching supplemental services. Neither reference, however, relates to intercepting supplemental service requests at an intervening server before execution by a destination server, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Indeed, neither Taylor nor Brivet contain a hint that such interception and carrying out of supplementary services by an other-than-original server is even desirable.

As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

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For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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MARKED UP CLAIMS

1. (Four Times Amended) A communications network resource usage control system, comprising:

a plurality of servers in the communications network adapted to execute supplementary communications service requests;

a monitoring unit connected to each of said plurality of servers to receive and decode supplementary service information for the supplementary communications service being requested; and

a control program responsive to said monitor to select which of said plurality of servers will execute said communications services;

wherein at least one of said plurality of servers comprises an intervening server and is adapted to intercept a supplementary communications service request to determine whether execution of said supplementary communications service request is carried out by a server other than an original requested server, perform a link optimization based on a type of supplementary service being requested and redirect said supplementary service communications request to said other server.

5. (Four Times Amended) A communications network resource usage optimization system in an interconnected network system, comprising:

a plurality of servers in the interconnected network system adapted to execute supplementary communications service requests;

a monitoring unit connected to each of said plurality of servers to receive and decode supplementary service information for the supplementary communications services being requested; and

a control program responsive to said monitor decoding supplementary service information adapted to perform a link optimization based on a type of supplementary service being requested and select which of said plurality of servers will execute said communications services, said control program further enabling said optimization system only under predetermined conditions;

wherein at least one of said plurality of servers comprises an intervening server and is adapted to intercept a supplementary communications service request to determine whether execution of said supplementary communications service request is carried out by a server other than an original requested server and redirect said supplementary service communications request to said other server;

wherein an optimization comprises re-using a predetermined number of links in an original connection.

9. (Four Times Amended) A method for controlling communications network resource usage in a communications network, comprising:

enabling supplementary communications service requests;

intercepting said supplementary communications service requests at an intervening server before execution by a destination server;

receiving and decoding supplementary service information for said supplementary communications service being requested; [and]

performing a link optimization based on a type of supplementary service being requested and selecting which of said one or more servers will execute said communications services; and

redirecting said supplementary service communications request to said selected server.